



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending June 26, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

Released June 27, 2005, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** Field work continued full steam ahead in the commonwealth amid concerns dry weather had reached drought status. Rainfall was minimal, at best; producers are becoming very uneasy with the lack of moisture and are very much in need of rainfall to bring relief. Forecasted showers for the upcoming week would help immensely. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included making hay, spreading manure, spreading lime, top-dressing hay fields, baling straw, scouting, spraying corn, oats, and soybeans, harvesting barley, irrigating vegetable crops, and preparation of combines for grain harvesting.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 26, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
28	49	22	1

**Crops:** Fifty-four percent of this year's barley crop is now ripe. Producers have harvested 41 percent of the barley crop, behind last year's pace and historic averages. Corn height is now at 23 inches, 16 inches behind last year at this time but on pace with the 5-year average. Corn crop conditions plummeted from last week as only 55 percent of this year's crop is rated as either good or excellent. Reports of curling are becoming more and more prevalent in parts of the state. Ninety-six percent of soybeans are now emerged, well ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-two percent of soybeans are rated as either good or excellent, also considerably down from the previous week. Wheat crop progress caught up from last week as 78 percent of this year's crop is turning yellow, 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Seventy-six percent of the wheat crop is rated as either good or excellent. Oats are heading at 69 percent, only slightly ahead of historic trends. Sixty-five percent of the oat crop is rated as either good or excellent. One hundred percent of tobacco is now transplanted. Ninety-two percent of this year's 1<sup>st</sup> cutting of alfalfa is now complete, as well as 27 percent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting. Concerns continue over hay yields as tonnage is way down in much of the state. The heat has allowed for some good, dry hay to be made as the quality of hay made this past week was rated with the following: 1 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. Seventy-one

percent of the alfalfa stand is rated as either good or excellent. Seventy-five percent of the 1<sup>st</sup> cutting of timothy clover is now cut, and 63 percent of the timothy clover stand is rated as either good or excellent.

Peach crop conditions improved slightly after dipping last week while apple conditions remain in excellent shape. Sixty-five percent of peaches are now rated as either good or excellent while 89 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions were rated with the following: 3 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. This is down considerably from last week's conditions. Reports of pastures browning due to heat stress are beginning to surface.

**U.S. As of June 19, 2005:** Highlights: In the wake of heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Arlene, warm, mostly dry weather prevailed across much of the Southeast and Mississippi Delta, encouraging crop development, particularly cotton. Meanwhile, the remnants of Arlene brought rainfall to the eastern Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and Great Lakes region, helping to relieve recent dryness and improve crop conditions. Corn: Emergence neared completion in the northernmost growing areas, while silking was well underway across the Southeast, Delta, and southern Great Plains. However, for the vast majority of the crop in the central Corn Belt and central Great Plains, the crop was between the two stages, with emergence complete and silking yet to begin. Soybeans: Growers had planted 96 percent of their acreage, compared with 95 percent last year and 94 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 92 percent complete, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Heading reached 97 percent complete, the same as last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Twenty-two percent of the crop had been harvested, compared with 37 percent last year and 29 percent for the 5-year average. Small Grains: Barley heading advanced to 10 percent complete, compared with 12 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average. Forty-nine percent of the oat crop had reached the heading stage, 3 points behind last year but the same as normal. Heading progressed rapidly in the Ohio Valley, advancing 33 points in Ohio and 28 points in Pennsylvania under warm, mostly dry conditions.

**Weather Data For Week Ending June 26, 2005**

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 26, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	89	49	69	1	0.01	1	7.28	-2.97	33	783	95	1,467
Franklin	89	48	67	-1	0.04	1	8.85	-2.50	44	694	30	1,426
Meadville	88	50	69	3	0.02	1	7.60	-3.41	34	750	157	1,478
Mercer	90	49	68	2	0.05	1	9.90	-1.28	43	704	39	1,414
Springboro	92	46	67	-2	0.03	1	8.96	-0.86	40	654	-49	1,322
Warren	90	39	65	-3	0.00	0	9.04	-2.74	36	666	28	1,378
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	87	37	62	-1	0.04	1	8.78	-3.07	41	488	51	1,127
Emporium	91	47	66	2	0.00	0	5.80	-6.07	38	660	162	1,373
Kane	89	38	61	-2	0.00	0	8.03	-3.95	36	456	26	1,086
Laporte	84	45	65	-3	0.08	1	10.76	-0.51	40	590	-72	1,259
Lock Haven	93	48	69	1	0.00	0	6.15	-4.67	33	798	76	1,561
Port Allegany	90	44	64	1	0.00	0	5.50	-5.97	34	554	40	1,197
Renovo	92	48	68	-1	0.00	0	4.79	-6.03	32	779	57	1,541
Ridgway	89	44	64	-1	0.08	1	7.53	-4.34	35	543	45	1,230
Stevenson Dam	90	49	67	3	0.02	1	5.56	-6.31	38	714	216	1,458
Towanda	92	46	67	-1	0.00	0	8.49	-0.94	28	715	39	1,441
Wellsboro	86	42	63	0	0.03	1	9.79	0.54	32	541	84	1,183
Williamsport	93	48	69	0	0.00	0	8.05	-2.80	26	891	64	1,665
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	90	43	65	0	0.02	1	8.88	-1.83	32	612	75	1,302
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	92	48	70	2	0.01	1	7.01	-3.07	29	896	129	1,670
Susquehanna	91	45	66	2	0.11	2	9.09	-2.17	37	665	155	1,372
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	89	48	68	-1	0.01	1	9.23	-1.85	35	744	40	1,518
New Castle	92	50	70	2	0.00	0	9.99	-0.06	36	816	112	1,586
Slippery Rock	90	46	67	2	0.02	1	9.47	-1.29	37	742	111	1,526
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	88	51	68	-2	0.00	0	3.89	-6.36	17	753	-31	1,506
DuBois	87	48	67	0	0.02	2	7.53	-3.96	44	676	25	1,411
Lewistown	93	49	70	0	0.07	1	6.96	-3.85	30	870	-2	1,665
Middletown	94	54	73	0	0.00	0	7.26	-3.61	25	1,110	115	1,945
Prince Gallitzi	91	47	66	1	0.02	1	6.20	-6.56	38	594	6	1,300
Selinsgrove	92	49	69	0	0.00	0	7.36	-3.62	25	811	19	1,586
State College	90	51	69	1	0.15	2	5.00	-5.05	34	831	64	1,615
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	93	50	70	-2	0.00	0	10.53	-0.42	29	926	33	1,735
Lehighton	91	50	68	-3	0.00	0	11.45	0.48	32	805	-46	1,593
Matamoras	91	47	66	-3	0.32	1	8.69	-2.92	34	683	-69	1,412
Tobyhanna	91	49	68	5	0.20	1	10.22	-2.00	40	780	328	1,556
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	92	56	72	4	0.14	1	7.09	-3.57	34	999	212	1,818
Derry	90	54	69	2	0.05	1	9.03	-1.61	31	778	60	1,554
Myersdale	87	46	63	-5	0.14	1	7.57	-4.10	31	512	-189	1,195
Mount Pleasant	89	51	67	2	0.05	1	9.41	-2.95	39	748	129	1,527
Pittsburgh Intl	90	55	71	2	0.03	1	9.94	0.01	36	925	88	1,727
Rector	89	53	68	2	0.16	2	8.89	-3.47	43	742	123	1,518
Waynesburg	90	52	68	0	0.36	1	7.82	-2.91	29	778	22	1,566
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	91	54	70	-3	0.03	2	9.60	-0.59	31	921	-67	1,734
Everett	84	47	65	-5	0.20	2	5.21	-4.60	31	548	-210	1,257
Hanover	91	48	70	-4	0.17	2	7.22	-2.97	28	909	-79	1,713
Shippensburg	91	51	70	-2	0.22	2	8.05	-2.03	30	953	-42	1,754
South Mountain	87	47	66	-4	0.33	2	8.49	-1.76	26	821	44	1,634
York	92	46	69	-3	0.00	0	6.43	-4.60	21	942	-52	1,745
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	91	53	70	-2	0.00	0	9.41	-1.17	25	908	70	1,724
Hamburg	94	53	70	2	0.00	0	8.39	-4.40	24	941	201	1,751
Hopewell	91	53	70	-4	0.15	1	9.44	-1.58	32	915	-128	1,733
Lancaster	90	52	70	-3	0.00	0	9.84	-0.96	26	974	77	1,788
Neshaminy Falls	90	51	68	-5	0.18	1	9.71	-2.20	22	824	-69	1,615
New Holland	93	53	71	-1	0.00	0	7.19	-3.61	27	982	85	1,800
Philadelphia	90	58	73	-2	0.34	1	9.32	-1.27	25	1,134	69	1,991
Philadelphia NE	91	55	72	-2	0.15	1	9.43	-1.16	23	1,097	32	1,943
Reading	95	52	72	1	0.00	0	7.34	-4.59	27	1,029	162	1,849
Valley Forge Na	90	50	68	-5	0.00	0	10.98	-0.04	19	829	-214	1,615
Willow Grove	90	56	71	-1	0.01	1	7.34	-4.57	22	995	102	1,827

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

**Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.**

---

**ADAMS COUNTY, Sharon Weigle (FSA)** - Tart cherry harvest will be under way next week. Strawberries are about done with raspberries on the way. Continued warm and dry conditions. Crops look good, generally, but rain would be a blessing.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - Some corn fields are really starting to suffer due to lack of rain. Yield reduction and/or stand loss will occur over the next few days if significant showers don't develop. Wheat looks good and is maturing fast. Some will probably be harvested later this week.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA)** - The previous week has been hot and humid with very trace amounts of precipitation. Rain is needed; however, the need is not critical yet. Crop progress is encouraging for good yields this year.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - It's amazing what one week can do. We certainly got the weather to bale hay -- which was this week's main activity. Many wagon loads of hay came off the fields, but yields are below normal. It is too dry, the corn is showing stress, and oats are heading but stalks are short. The potatoes are blossoming. Winter wheat and barley are ripening and appear to be good. We need some good showers this week.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - It's very dry. We need rain. Corn is showing signs of stress and 2nd hay cuttings are not doing well. No rain fall during the week. Showers forecasted for next week are needed to get crops back on schedule.

**CHESTER COUNTY, Samuel High (NRCS)** - Corn is beginning to show drought stress in some areas of the county.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - Crops are suffering from high heat this last week. We need rain. The hay crop is short.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Excellent week for making hay and growing corn. Mowers and balers were running all week making good dry hay. The good weather helped farmers catch up with taking care of their crop needs, such as scouting, spraying, and fertilizing.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The area is very dry. Rain would be greatly appreciated. Warren County is very dry. Weeds are growing the best right now. Many acres of corn, oats, and other crops were sprayed this past week. Many acres of excellent hay were harvested. Hay yields are below normal to normal. If we get rain, there should be a good second crop.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - Spotty showers and some heavy winds this week but no significant help with the dry conditions. Cool weather mid-week but hot again for the week's end. Field crops are progressing normally; however, the third cutting of alfalfa will be very short. Tonnage has been less than normal this season, but quality is excellent. Barley has been harvested on most farms. Yield was average (75-90 bu/acre). Straw was short in most cases, but test weight and quality was the best it has been for many years. Producers are storing the grain at this time, waiting to see if the corn crop produces. It will be used as feed if needed. Wheat looks to be average. Several producers are beginning harvest this week. No change on fruit conditions. Hot weather shortened the strawberry season and sweet cherries are finished. Larger tart cherry growers have started the harvest, but most will get going this coming week.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - Corn and alfalfa are really starting to show serious stress from lack of moisture.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS)** - Harvesting double cropped small grains and planting second crops. With the hot weather and no rain, crops are starting to show signs of drought.

**LEBANON COUNTY, Julie Holland (FSA)** - Some of the early corn is hanging in there, but the rest of the corn is curling. Oats that are headed seem short.

**LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby (EXT)** - Haymaking progressed at full speed last week and into the weekend. Even on our deep soils corn is showing stress from heat and lack of moisture.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - No measurable rain again this past week. Everything is drought stressed. Good weather for making hay except for Wednesday with a few scattered thunderstorms in the area. Timothy yields are good with some reports of 3 to 4 tons/acre and drying in a couple days. The earliest sweet corn is showing tassels, and Lancaster County corn is being sold at local road stands. Haymaking, spraying soybeans, and irrigating were the main activities this week.

**POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)** - The county received very spotty showers this week with some areas getting lots of rain. A lot of hay was made last week. Second growth and corn are growing good in ideal conditions.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - Dry conditions are causing a great deal of concern throughout the farm community. Irrigation is the major task for our vegetable growers. Haymaking conditions are good for high quality forage.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - A very good week for making hay and harvesting barley; however, it was not a good growing week. The condition of corn and soybeans has deteriorated extensively due to the dry soil conditions and the extremely hot temperatures. There was a light shower (0.3 to 0.5 of an inch) on Tuesday. The temperatures during the last several days have been in the low- to mid-90's. The regrowth of alfalfa has stopped. Oats are suffering also. The main activities for the week were haymaking, spreading fertilizer, baling straw, and spraying herbicides.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS)** - It is very dry. Corn is curling during the daytime heat. Pastures are turning brown from the lack of moisture. The threat of thunderstorms has farmers praying for rain.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Very dry here. Some fields need to be re-sprayed, but it's no use without some rain to make it work. Most of the first hay is off. Second cutting is looking good.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Temperatures were hot and conditions turned dry during the second half of the week, making for an excellent hay harvesting period. Some corn and soybeans were showing the stress from the heat and lack of moisture. Grass growth has slowed dramatically.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 26, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn average height, inches	23	39	23
Barley, turning yellow	98	99	94
Barley, ripe	54	87	74
Barley, harvested	41	56	45
Wheat, turning yellow	78	89	76
Oats, heading or headed	69	66	67
Soybeans, emerged	96	86	82
Tobacco, transplanted	100	93	90
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	92	82	82
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	27	16	20
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	75	61	57

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 26, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	9	35	48	7
Wheat	1	3	20	65	11
Oats	0	4	31	53	12
Soybeans	0	10	38	45	7
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	2	26	58	13
Timothy clover stand	1	5	31	52	11
Quality of hay made	0	1	19	56	24
Pasture	3	21	41	30	5
Peaches	2	4	29	45	20
Apples	2	3	6	53	36

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**United States**  
**Department of Agriculture**  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Pennsylvania Statistical Office  
2301 N Cameron St Room G-19  
Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**  
**POSTAGE & FEES PAID**  
USDA  
PERMIT NO. G-38